GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Kumar Shri Shailendra;Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic violence and harassment against women is on the rise over the years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to arrest the continuing trend and has taken action against the culprits;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any complaint has been registered under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2006 since its inception by Delhi Police as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 25, 2007;

(f) if so, the latest details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty Police officers in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.320 FOR 20.3.2007 REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(a) to (b): The statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), show that in 2005 there has been a decrease of 3.4 per cent in the cases of Dowry Death and decrease of 10.8 per cent in the cases reported under Dowry Prohibition Act as compared to the previous year. Torture cases (cruelty by husbands and relatives) showed a marginal increase of 0.3 per cent over the same period. A statement showing the State-wise and year-wise incidents of `Dowry Death', `Torture' and cases under `Dowry Prohibition Act' during 2003, 2004 and 2005 is annexed.

(c) to (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India, hence the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime lies with the State Governments. However, the Union Government has from time to time issued advisories to the State Governments to give more focused attention to improving administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against all vulnerable section of the society.The Union Government has also enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which is a civil law, and has been promulgated on 26.10.2006.

(e) to (h) : No complaint has been registered by Delhi Police under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence act, 2005. The said Act has come into force recently i.e. w.e.f 26.10.2006. However, the Delhi Police is already taking action against the culprits in the incidents of domestic violence and harassment against women by registering the case under appropriate sections of laws.A circular has been issued by the Police Head Quarters to sensitize the police officers and staff to take proper action in the incidents of domestic violence and harassment against women in accordance with the provisions laid down in the above said Act.The Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi vide their letter dated 2.2.2007 have also appointed 16 Protection Officers (Women) under this Act to help the victims. No Police officer has been found guilty in this regard.However, all staff has been directed/briefed to take prompt action in such incidents.